THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORETRIPATHY): (a) to (d) National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC), Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), and Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (KSIDC), have entered into an agreement to consider the possibility of setting up a Synthetic Rutile Plant at Chavara based on ilmenite produced by IREL. Accordingly a market survey and technological appraisal is currently being conducted. Details of the project along with the expected investment and time schedule would be firmed up after the results of the market survey and technology appraisal have been evaluated.

Demand of steel in States

†3312. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) what is the demand of steel in various States of the country including Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the arrangements made for its supply alongwith the names of the States having maximum demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORETRIPATHY): (a) and (b) State-wise demand figures are not maintained in the Ministry. As per extant policy, the requirements of steel materials of SSI units in a State are routed through their respective Small Scale Industries Corporations (SSICs).The Ministry of Steel makes section/size wise allocation of steel materials for supply against their projected demand based on the availability from Main Producers. SSIC's of Chandigarh, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Goa accounted for the maximum demand of steel vis-a-vis other states in the country.

Accidents at VSP

†3313. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the industrial accidents occured in the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant during the last three years alongwith the number of people died in these accidents;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.